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HISTORICAL SKETCH,

Articles of Faith and Covenant,

RULES

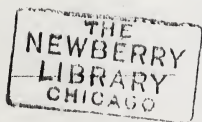
And Catalogue of Members, Past and Present,

OF THE

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

IN

WEST CHARLESTON, VT.



BOSTON :

PRESS OF FARRAR & BARNARD, 687½ WASHINGTON STREET.

1869.

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WEST CHARLESTON, VT. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.
Historical sketch, articles of faith and
covenant, rules and catalogue of members, past
and present, of the Congregational church in
West Charleston, Vt. Boston, Press of Farrar
& Barnard, 1869.
16p.

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HISTORICAL SKETCH
OF THE
ORTHODOX CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
IN
WEST CHARLESTON, VT.

In October, 1842, Rev. J. T. Howard, by invitation of the Orleans County Association, came into the county to labor as a missionary in the towns of Holland and Charleston.

As soon as arrangements could be made with other societies he divided his labors between West Charleston and Holland, preaching in both places on alternate Sabbaths, holding meetings in school houses, there being no meeting house in either town. In June, 1843, the Stone Church called a Union House was finished and dedicated. Rev. Proctor Moulton, Freewill Baptist, preached the sermon. This house was occupied nearly half the time by the Congregationalists until June, 1859, when their house of worship was completed and dedicated. Rev. Thomas Bayne of Irasburgh preached the dedication sermon.

When Mr. Howard commenced his labors in West Charleston there was but one Congregational professor (Mrs. Elizabeth Robinson, wife of Maj. J. M. Robinson) in the village or immediate vicinity. In 1844, May 14.

the Orthodox Congregational Church in West Charleston was organized by an ecclesiastical council, of which Rev. J. S. Clark was moderator and Dr. George A. Hinman was scribe.

Rev. R. V. Hall preached the sermon from the words—“Fear not little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” The church in its organization was composed of nine members, viz: Marcus A. Grow and his wife, Elizabeth Grow, Horace Holt, Charles F. Morse, Mrs. Abigail Morse (wife of Col. Joseph Morse,) Mrs. Maria Senter, by letters from the Congregational church in Derby, and Mrs. Elizabeth Robinson by letter from Congregational church in Brownington; also Mr. James G. Barnard and his wife, Lavina Barnard, united in the organization of the church by profession. Mr. Barnard was a faithful and efficient member of the church, and served in the office of deacon until his death. Though few and feeble, the church in 1854 undertook to build a house of worship, and after a severe struggle of five years, and receiving considerable assistance from individuals and churches abroad, it was completed at a cost of about \$2,500.

In 1857 Mr. Howard’s health failed so that he was obliged to desist from his public labors as a minister. For nearly three years, 1857–60, preaching was maintained only by temporary supplies. In 1859–60 Rev. Plineas Bailey preached six months, and several, by letter, were added to the church.

In May, 1860, Rev. Charles Duren became acting pastor and continued his labors two years and a half, dividing his time with Holland. Rev. Levi Loring succeeded Mr. Duren and labored three years and a half; the first year he divided his time with Holland. He was ordained and

installed as pastor July, 1863, and dismissed in June, 1866. Soon after, Rev. Timothy E. Rainey became acting pastor and remained one year. Rev. R. V. Hall then supplied the pulpit about four months.

In October, 1867, Mr. N. W. Grover began to serve as acting pastor and continued six months. He was followed by Rev. A. R. Gray, who preached several Sabbaths, until Nov., 1868, when Rev. A. C. Childs, formerly of Wenham, Mass., was invited as a candidate for settlement.

On the 23d of the same month, by a unanimous vote of the church he received an invitation to become the minister of the parish with the hope and expectation of soon being installed as the permanent pastor.

To the credit of the church it may be observed that during the intervals when the church has been without the services of the ministry, it has regularly held meetings on the Sabbath, conducted by one of the members.

In the review of the past we may say,

“HITHERTO HATH THE LORD HELPED US.”

FORM OF ADMISSION.

BELOVED FRIENDS :

You have presented yourselves before God and his people, and the world, to make a solemn profession of your religious faith, and to take upon you the bonds of the everlasting covenant. We trust you have duly considered the nature of the profession you are about to make, and of the engagements into which you are about to enter : the most solemn and momentous into which a mortal can ever enter ; and that you are prepared by divine grace to give yourselves away as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, through Jesus Christ, which is your reasonable service.

Having examined and assented to the Articles of Faith adopted by this church, you will now profess the same before these witnesses.

CONFESSION OF FAITH.

Accompanied by Scripture Proofs.

ARTICLE I. We believe that there is one and but one God, the Creator, Preserver and Governor of the universe ; a Being self-existent, independent, immutable ; infinite in power, wisdom, knowledge, holiness, justice, goodness and truth.

The Being and Perfections of God. — Is. 45: 5, Jer. 10: 10, Ju. 4: 24, Ex. 3: 14, Deut. 33: 27, Mal. 3: 6, Jer. 23: 24, Acts 15: 18, Rev. 19: 6, Eph. 4: 6, Ps. 119: 68, Rom. 16: 27, Is. 6: 3, Ps. 119: 137, Ps. 145: 8, Is. 25: 1.

ARTICLE II. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God ; that they contain a complete and harmonious system of truths, and are the only sufficient rule of faith and practice.

Inspiration of Scripture. — 2 Tim. 3: 16, 2 Pet. 1: 21, 1 Cor. 2: 13, Gal. 1: 11, 12, Matt. 22: 29, Is. 8: 20, Gal. 1: 8, Rev. 22: 18, 19.

ARTICLE III. We believe that God is revealed in the Scriptures as the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, and that these three are one God, mysteriously united and equal in all divine attributes.

The Trinity. — Matt. 28: 19, 2 Cor. 13: 14, 2 Thess. 3: 5, 1 Pet. 1: 2, Gen. 1: 26.

Christ is God. — Phil. 2: 6, Is. 9: 6, John 1: 1, John 10: 30, John 20: 28, Heb. 1: 8, 1 John 5: 20, Rom. 9: 5, Rev. 1: 8, Heb. 13: 8, Matt. 18: 20, John 21: 17, Col. 1: 16, 17, Acts 10: 42, John 5: 23, Heb. 1: 6, Rev. 5: 13, Acts 7: 39.

The Holy Ghost is God. — Acts 5: 34, Ju. 3: 5, Ju. 1: 13, 2 Tim. 3: 16, 2 Pet. 1: 21, 1 Cor. 3: 16, 1 Cor. 6: 19, John 16:

13, Luke 12: 12, Luke 3: 22, 1 Cor. 2: 10, Ps. 139: 7, Job 26: 13, Job 33: 4

ARTICLE IV. We believe that man was created holy, that he fell from a state of holiness by voluntary sin against God and that, in consequence of his fall, all mankind are by nature destitute of holiness, merit the full condemnation of the law and must be regenerated in order to secure salvation.

Gen. 1: 26, 27, Eccl. 7: 29, Rom. 5: 12, 18, 19, Eph. 2: 3.
Regeneration necessary.—John 3: 3, Heb. 12: 14, Gal. 6: 15, Rom. 8: 7, 1 Cor. 2: 11.

ARTICLE V. We believe that the Son of God became incarnate and by his sufferings and death on the cross, the just for the unjust, has made a full atonement for sin, so that God can now be just and the justifier of him that believeth.

John 1: 1, 14, Phil. 2: 6, 7, Col. 2: 9, Matt. 1: 23, John 10: 33, Heb. 12: 22, 24, Ju. 14: 6, Acts. 4: 12, 1 Tim. 1: 15, Luke 24: 46, 47, Matt. 26: 28, Heb. 9: 22, John 2: 1, 2, Rom. 3: 25, 26, John 3: 16.

ARTICLE VI. We believe in the Personality and Divinity of the Holy Ghost, and that it is his office to enlighten, convict, regenerate and sanctify the hearts of men, thus making effectual upon them the atonement of Christ.

John 14: 6, Eph. 2: 18, Acts 5: 3, 4, Heb. 9: 14, John 16: 7, 8, John 3: 5, 2 Thess. 2: 13.

ARTICLE VII. We believe that the invitations of the Gospel are full and sincere and that whosoever will may come and partake of the water of life freely; but that mankind do of their own accord most freely and wickedly refuse to comply with the conditions of the gospel so that none of them do come unless drawn by the special influence of the Holy Spirit.

Is. 55: 1, Ezek. 33: 11, John 6: 37, Rom. 8: 7, 1 Cor. 2: 14, John 1: 13, Titus 3: 5.

ARTICLE VIII. We believe that all who truly embrace the gospel were chosen in Christ from the foundation of the world, that they should be holy and without blame before him in love, and that all such will be kept by the power of God through faith unto final salvation.

Eph. 1: 4, Phil. 1: 6, 1 John 2: 19, Rom. 8: 38, 39, John 6: 39, John 10: 27-29, Rom. 8: 30.

ARTICLE IX. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has in this world a visible church, the terms of admission to which are Repentance, Faith and Baptism; that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are the sacraments of this church; and that Baptism is to be administered to believers and their households, and the Supper only to believers in regular standing and communion with the church.

Matt. 16: 18, Matt. 18: 17, Acts 2: 47, 2 Cor. 6: 14-18, 1 Cor. 1: 2, 1 Thess. 1: 1-3, Matt. 28: 19, Matt. 26: 26-30, Rom. 4: 11, Gal. 3: 27-29, Acts 16: 14, 15, Acts 16: 33.

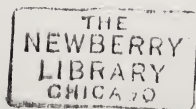
ARTICLE X. We believe in the immortality of the soul, in the resurrection of the body, and that God has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus Christ; that all men will be rewarded according to their true characters; that the wicked will go away into everlasting punishment and the righteous into life eternal.

John 5: 28, 29, Acts 24: 15, Acts 17: 31, 2 Cor. 5: 10, 2 Pet. 3: 7, Rev. 20: 12, 13, Matt. 25: 31-46.

Thus you profess and believe.

[The ordinance of Baptism will now be administered to those who have not received it.]

You will now enter into covenant with God and this church.



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COVENANT.

In the presence of God, his holy angels, and this assembly, you do now solemnly avouch the Lord Jehovah, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost to be your God, the object of your supreme affections and your portion forever; you cordially acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ in all his mediatorial offices, Prophet, Priest and King, as your only Saviour, and the Holy Spirit as your Sanctifier, Comforter and Guide. You humbly and cheerfully devote yourselves to God in the everlasting covenant of his grace; you consecrate all your powers and faculties to his service and glory, and you promise that through the assistance of his spirit you will cleave to him as your chief good; that you will give diligent attendance to his word and ordinances; that you will seek the honor and interest of his kingdom; and that henceforth denying all ungodliness and every worldly lust, you will live soberly, righteously and godly in the world.

You do now cordially join yourselves to this church of Christ, engaging to submit to the rules of government and discipline which it has adopted; to strive earnestly for its peace, edification and purity, and to walk with its members in love, faithfulness, circumspection, meekness and sobriety.

This you solemnly profess and engage.

In consequence of these professions and engagements, we, the members of this church, [here the members of the

church rise] affectionately receive you to our communion, and in the name of Christ acknowledge you entitled to all its privileges. We welcome you to this fellowship with us in the blessings of the gospel, and on our part engage to watch over you and seek your edification as long as you continue with us. And hereafter you can never withdraw from the watch and communion of saints without a breach of covenant. And now, beloved in the Lord, let it be impressed on your minds that you have entered into solemn obligations from which you can never escape. Wherever you go these vows will be upon you; they will follow you to the bar of God and will abide upon you to eternity. You can never again be as you have been. You have unalterably committed yourselves, and henceforth you must be the servants of God.

Hereafter the eyes of the world will be upon you, and as you demean yourself so religion will be honored or dishonored. If you walk worthily of your profession you will be a credit and comfort to us; but if otherwise it will be an occasion of grief and reproach. But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things which accompany salvation, though we thus speak. May the Lord guide and preserve you till death, and at last receive you and us to that blessed world where our love and joy shall be forever perfect. Amen.

STANDING RULES.

1. Candidates for admission to this church shall have given to them a copy of the Confession of Faith and Covenant, and be examined upon the same, and, if approved be propounded two weeks before the communion.

2. Persons presenting letters from other churches for admission to this church, shall at some church meeting signify their assent to our Confession of Faith and Covenant, and be admitted by vote of the church. In the case of those coming from other denominations, they may, if deemed necessary, be examined in regard to their religious experience.

In both cases their admission shall be announced to the congregation from the pulpit.

3. The weekly prayer meeting of this church is on Thursday evening.

4. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed by this church in the afternoons of the first Sabbaths in January, April, July and October.

5. A church meeting for devotional purposes and the transaction of business shall be held on the last Friday of each month.

6. This church considers the use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage by any member of the church as a disciplinary offence.

7. This church considers immoral conduct, breach of

express covenant vows, neglect of acknowledged religious or relative duties, and avowed disbelief of the articles of faith to which the members have assented, as offences subject to the censure and discipline of the church.

8. In all cases of offence either against individual members or the church at large, discipline shall proceed on the rule laid down in Matt. 18: 15-18.

9. The foregoing articles or rules of the church may be amended or expunged by a vote of the church at any regular meeting, a majority present voting therefor.

PRESENT OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH.

Pastor:

REV. ALEXANDER C. CHILDS.

Installed May 19, 1869.

Deacons:

CHARLES CUMMINGS. Elected March 26, 1869.

CHARLES CARPENTER. " " 26, 1869.

CATALOGUE OF MEMBERS

Past and Present.

Ad. annexed signifies that the person was received by *profession*. L. signifies that the person was received by *letter* from another church. D. signifies *dismissal* to another church. EX denotes *excommunication*. — signifies *deceased*.

ADMITTED IN 1844.

May 11. Marcus A. Grow, L. EX.

Abigail Morse, L.

Charles F. Morse, L. D.

Elizabeth Grow, L.

*Maria Senter, L.

*Elizabeth Robinson, L.

*Dea. Jas. G. Barnard, P.

Lavina Barnard, P.

Horace Holt, L.

Oct. 18. Mrs. Abigail Farnum, P.

1847.

Sept. 26. Mason Lyon, L.

Priscilla Lyon, L.

1848.

Oct. 22. Nathan Wilcox, L.
Lucia Wilcox, L.

1849.

Nov. 21. *John Grow, L.
*Olive Grow, L.

1855.

Feb. 5. Susan Grow, L. D.

1860.

Jan. 1. Rev. J. T. Howard, L.
Charles Cummings, L.
Jerusha Cummings, L.
Jotham Cummings, L.
Alice Cummings, L.
Sarah Wilder, L.
Mary A. Hinman, L.
Betsey Carpenter, L.
Adeliza S. Huntington, L.
Charles Carpenter, P.
Betsey N. Carpenter, P.
Hannah P. Dickerman, P.

April 22. *Abel Wilder, L.

Nov. 4. Marthaette Howard, L.

1861.

March 10. Charles Duren, L. D.
*Serena Duren, L.
Charles McK. Duren, L.
*Elizabeth Duren, L.

1863.

July 9. Mrs. S. C. Clark, L.
Elizabeth Kilborn, L.
Jerusha L. Nims, L.
Cornelia Robinson, P.
Carolette C. Robinson, (Allen) P.
Helen M. Hinman, P. D.
Lavina F. Durkee, P.

July 9. Rufus H. Barnard, p.
John Henry Holton, p. ex

1864.

March 6. Frances Hannah Bowker, p.
Charlotte Augusta Barnes, p. D.
Amelia A. Gould, p.
Lucy Mary Pratt, p. D.
Mary Lee Paul, p.
Hannah Sutton, p.
Sarah D. Barron, p.
Amy L. Gray, p.
Rev. Levi Loring, L.
Sarah E. Loring, L.
July 3. Egbert H. Robinson, p.
Mary C. Robinson, L.
Oct. 2. Dianna V. Hefflon, L.

1865.

April 2. Betsey E. Haseltine, p.
Aug. 6. Frank E. Wiggin, L. D.
Stella K. Wiggin, L. D.
Charlotte Waterman, L.
Henry Crandall, p.
Lucy Crandall, p.

1866.

April 1. Lucy A. Holt, L.
Susan M. Grow, L.

1867.

April 8. Eva Haseltine, p.
May 3. Eunice Barnard.
July 7. Alden Grow, L.
S. A. Grow, L.
Mary Ann Grow, L.
Sarah E. Grow, L.

1868.

Jan. 3. Kate Cummings, L.
March 27. S. P. Corey, L.
Rachel F. Corey, L.
Rebecca Corey, L.

1869.

Jan. Rev. Alexander C. Childs, L.
Eunice H. Childs, L.
April 4. Elias Lund, p.

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